

enciennes), *Porichthys porosus* (Valenciennes), *Gobiesox marmoratus*, Jenyns, *Scartichthys eques* (Steindachner), *Genypterus blacodes* (Schneider), *Eleginops maclovina* (Valenciennes), *Bovichthus diacanthus* (Carmichael), *Paralichthys kingii* (Jenyns).

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A LARGE POLYODON FROM IOWA.

The American Museum of Natural History has received the photograph of a very large, mounted Polyodon, taken in Lake Okoboji, Northern Iowa, February 22, 1916, by Mr. R. D. Vanderbeck of Arnold's Park, Iowa, who writes that it was taken with a spear and gives the length of the fish as 7 ft. 1 in., its girth 45½ in., the length of the bill 17 in.

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NOTES ON CISTUDO CAROLINA FROM ORIENT, LONG ISLAND.

Considerable has been said in COPEIA about the aquatic habits of the Box Tortoise on Long Island. I would like to put on record a few instances of its frequenting both fresh and salt water near Orient.

One quite remarkable occurrence was in August, 1909, at East Marion. In the center of a dry woods there was a depression where the water had recently evaporated, leaving a deep oozy mire. In and around this sink I counted between sixty and seventy of these turtles. More than half of these were partly or entirely submerged in the mud. Specimens were poked out that were buried near a foot in depth. Circling around the hole at varying distances I observed numbers of others working toward it from all directions. The most surprising thing to me was

the speed that the more distant ones were traveling. It may not be an uncommon fact that the Box Tortoise hurry, but was new to me, for these outsiders were moving on at the gait of a fast walk. This was a gathering of tortoises that I have never witnessed before or since.

Cistudo also frequently enters salt water near Orient. Lying between a sandy cedar-grown beach and the mainland of Orient is a bay one mile wide. I have on several occasions found these turtles midway across, always swimming leisurely toward the mainland. It seems evident that they enter the water of their own free will, as the beach to the south is flat and no creeks running out.

While off on the fishing ledges on the sound I have on two occasions seen this species more than half a mile from land. Although both these specimens were swimming toward the Orient hills to the south, they were being carried rapidly east or west with the strongly flowing tide. It is a question where these specimens came from, whether from the nearest inlet fifteen miles west, or the New England rivers. It is improbable that they entered the water near Orient.

The record flood tide of December, 1909, washed over a portion of the beach south of the bay that had not been inundated in about fifty years. Taking observation there a few days after the water had receded—which overflowed for one tide only—I found four of these turtles that had left their hibernation burrows and frozen to death. The flood ebbed off in the afternoon and that night it became severely cold. The salt water coming in from the ocean at that time, early in the winter, was warm. In every case the animal was not over four feet from the burrow. I was interested to notice that the holes were only deep enough to slightly cover the shell with sand.

Whether this species' preference for eating a certain mushroom is well known I am not aware. In this section the *Russula obscura* is devoured almost

exclusively. When collecting fleshy fungi I have wondered at the wisdom of a turtle to pass *Amanita*, *Amanitopsis*, *Lactarius* and *Boletus* forms, while only the stipe of practically every *Russula obscura* along the lane is left and the ground strewn with crumbs.

It was a common practice in former days to carve initials on the plastron of these tortoises. Among the long list of names in the writer's possession is one dated 1838.

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NOTES ON NEW JERSEY BATRACHIANS AND REPTILES.

Spelerpes longicauda. Common along brooks and about springs in the Watchung Hills near Plainfield.

Bufo americanus. The common toad of the vicinity of Plainfield and, so far as known, of the whole southern two-thirds of New Jersey is *Bufo fowleri*. I have found *B. americanus* at Budd's Lake, Newfoundland, and Newton and recently at Mine Brook, about one mile west of Bernardsville, Somerset Co. The latter locality is a quarter mile north of Lat. $40^{\circ} 42'$ and lies in a narrow valley of 200 feet elevation between hills which on the south rise to a height of 530 feet and immediately north to 680 feet, two miles further north reaching 857 feet.

The long parallel trap ridges a few miles to the south attain a height of 600 feet, but I have never found the American Toad in those hills. The Mine Brook locality is the southernmost known station for this species in the state. In the more northern New Jersey stations, where the altitude is greater, it is associated with a distinctly more northern flora and fauna than that of Mine Brook.